

benefit of future Federal retirees. Instead, it will go into the general treasury to finance tax cuts for others.

Fact: 50 percent of Federal employees are part of the FERS retirement system which everyone agrees has absolutely no unfunded liability. Nevertheless, these workers are subjected to the same tax hike and will get no additional retirement benefit or security.

Fact: CRS has determined that the Federal retirement system does not have an unfunded liability problem and faces no threat of insolvency. These findings have been verified and confirmed by the GAO.

H.R. 1215 includes a huge, unfair tax hike selectively imposed on 2 million working Americans. This tax hike does not belong in a tax reduction bill and must be defeated. I will oppose any rule that does not address this tax hike, and I will oppose any so-called Tax Fairness bill that arbitrarily punishes these 2 million Federal workers.

TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH, THE CROWN JEWEL OF THE REPUBLICAN CONTACT

(Mr. OLIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, Speaker NEWT GINGRICH, the Speaker of this House, has called the tax cut for the rich bill that we are going to be debating today the crown jewel of the Republican Contract on America. Well, he is also quoted in the Washington Times yesterday. Speaker NEWT GINGRICH quoted fairness is the animating principle, end quote, of the bill says House speaker NEWT GINGRICH who attacks the Democrats' argument as, quote, class warfare, unquote.

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Well, I am going to leave it to the American people to decide if it is fair to take \$15 billion of financial aid from the children of middle and low income families, who would want to use that financial aid to go to college, and use the \$15 billion to allow some of our biggest corporations in America to pay no taxes. Corporations like Anheuser-Busch, Boeing, du Pont, General Dynamics, PepsiCo, Texaco, Westinghouse, and Xerox—all of them would be allowed to pay no taxes under this bill.

Is it fair to take \$50 billion of heat and housing aid from elders and nutrition from young people and child care and subsistence from poor people and give that to the wealthiest families who make \$200,000 a year? Is it fair?

TAX FAIRNESS MEANS TAX RELIEF FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the time has come to provide tax relief for all Americans, especially for our senior

citizens. Today our grandparents are used as money trees by the Federal Government. Instead of treating our elders with respect, our Government has come to look at them as just another tax target.

For instance, the earnings limit imposed on working seniors actually discourages work. The tax is so unfair that if a senior citizens earns over \$11,000 in a year, he or she will be assessed a marginal tax rate of 56 percent. That is 56 percent; that is ridiculous. This rate is twice the rate that millionaires pay.

Excuse me, but I think there is something wrong with this picture.

In our Contract with America, Republicans promised to reduce the tax burden imposed on senior citizens. We are committed to tax fairness and to protecting our grandparents. We owe it to those who fought the wars, raised the families, and built the Nation to protect them from an out-of-control Federal Government bent on taxing the American people into the poorhouse.

Let us cut taxes now.

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART TO SERVICE MEMBERS KILLED IN IRAQI "NO FLY" ZONE INCIDENT

(Mr. DIXON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Army and Air Force for their decision to award the Purple Heart posthumously to members of the Armed Forces killed on April 14, 1994, in a friendly fire incident in the northern Iraqi no fly zone. Fourteen American service members on peacekeeping duty—were killed when two American F-15C fighter aircraft accidentally shot down two United States Black Hawk helicopters in northern Iraq.

Mrs. Kaye Mounsey, the widow of Army WO Eric Mounsey—a pilot of one of the helicopters—resides in Culver City in my congressional district. I met with Mrs. Mounsey last summer and she related to me the concern which she and other family members shared about the initial decision of the military not to award the Purple Heart.

As a result of language inserted in last year's defense appropriations conference report and the consistent advocacy of family members that decision has now been reversed. It was the appropriate thing to do.

I am pleased that the services have agreed to recognize the sacrifice of these members of the Armed Forces. It is the appropriate thing to do. While there is little we can do to compensate for the loss of a husband, brother, sister or child, it is essential that we acknowledge the Nation's gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice that these Americans gave in service to their country.

The role and complexity of United States Armed Forces missions have evolved and it is important that the services acknowledge that

evolution. While the criteria for award of one of the Armed Forces' highest honors must remain high, I commend the services for recognizing that the Iraqi incident, occurring in the presence of hostile forces, meets the criteria for award of the Purple Heart.

A HISTORY LESSON IN ECONOMICS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, of course, the Democrats and the White House are concerned about the circus coming to town. They hate having the competition. Besides, they might get stomped on by a charging elephant. They already had that experience in November.

But have they no shame? For the past 40 years, while controlling the House, the Democrats had deficit spending, and now suddenly they are deficit hawks concerned about a tax cut that might hurt the economy or the deficit, according to them.

Of course, we know that Democrats love taxes, so they do not want to give up on any tax revenue. But I would say to my friends on that side of the aisle, if they would look at history, economic history, they would see that tax cuts actually increase revenues.

From 1956 to 1969, taxes were down, and GDP increased. From 1970 to 1982, taxes were up and GDP went down, revenue from taxes went down. From 1983 to 1988, revenue from taxes went up and taxes were down. But then after the 1989-90 tax bill, taxes went up and revenues went down.

Mr. Speaker, this is economic history. It is not partisan politics. I would be happy to share it with any of the Members.

THE CIRCUS AND THE GOP SHARE THE SPOTLIGHT

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, much as been said this morning about the circus coming to town, and it is true. As we speak, the circus is out here on the Capitol Grounds, celebrating its 125th anniversary, complete with clowns and elephants performing tricks.

While the elephants are outside performing their tricks, the GOP elephants in this Chamber are performing their tricks on the American people. They say they are for balancing the budget, but instead they are about to pass legislation giving tax breaks for the rich, at the expense of the rest of the American people. These tax cuts for the wealthy, which the Speaker calls his crown jewel, will surely explode the national deficit and at the same time cut or eliminate college student loans, take food out of the mouths